

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/017831

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:
- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:
- pages 2-9 as originally filed/furnished
- pages* 1 received by this Authority on 29.03.2005
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 2-9 as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* 1 received by this Authority on 29.03.2005
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets fig. 1-13 as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

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Box No. II

Priority

1. ☐ This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the failure to furnish within the prescribed time limit the requested:
- ☐ copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 66.7(a)).
- ☐ translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 66.7(b)).
2. ☐ This report has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rule 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this report, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.
3. Additional observations, if necessary:

The inventions set forth in claims 1 to 3 are disclosed in the prior application that serves as the basis for claiming the rights of priority; consequently, the rights of priority that were claimed therefor are considered to be valid.

However, the inventions set forth in claims 4 to 9 are not disclosed or suggested in the prior application that serves as the basis for claiming the rights of priority, and are not obvious; consequently, the rights of priority that were claimed therefor are not valid.

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Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1.	Statement		
	Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-9</u>	YES
		Claims _____	NO
	Inventive step (IS)	Claims <u>6</u>	YES
		Claims <u>1-5, 7-9</u>	NO
	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-9</u>	YES
		Claims _____	NO
2.	Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)		
	<p>Document 1: JP 2003-170748 A (Toyota Motor Corp.), 17 June 2003, fig. 1 to 2 (Family: none)</p> <p>Document 2: JP 2004-17808 A (Toyota Motor Corp.), 22 January 2004, fig. 1 to 3 (Family: none)</p> <p>Document 3: JP 2000-238541 A (Mazda Motor Corp.), 05 September 2000, fig. 1 to 2 (Family: none)</p> <p>The inventions set forth in claims 1 to 3 do not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 and 3 cited in the international search report. The invention disclosed in document 1 comprises a rocker that is provided to the side part of the floor panel. Meanwhile, the invention disclosed in document 3 comprises a battery pack that is provided to the floor panel at a location between a rocker and a tunnel that extends from the front part of the vehicle body to the back part of the vehicle body. Such being the case, it cannot be considered to be especially difficult to apply the floor panel disclosed in document 3 in the invention disclosed in document 1.</p> <p>The inventions set forth in claims 4, 5 and 9 do not involve an inventive step in the light of document 2 cited in the international search report. It cannot be considered to be especially difficult for a person</p>		

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Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

skilled in the art to dispose the equipment at locations on the rear side of the vehicle relative to the battery unit in the invention disclosed in document 2.

The inventions set forth in claims 7 and 8 do not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 2 and 3 cited in the international search report. It would have been easy for a person skilled in the art to conceive of applying the floor panel disclosed in document 3 in the invention disclosed in document 2.

On the other hand, the invention set forth in claim 6 is not disclosed in any of the documents that are cited in the international search report, and would not have been obvious to a person skilled in the art.